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October 16, 2017

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Unifor Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries**

***Greetings:***

The annual United Way campaigns are now underway. In each of our communities the United Way has a proven ability to make a profound difference. By supporting the United Way, we contribute to reducing inequality, alleviating poverty and building stronger and more inclusive communities.

We all know the impact that the recession, the erosion of the manufacturing base and the rise in low-wage, precarious work, has had on our communities. In many cases it has meant that our members, who in the past have been strong supporters of their local United Way Campaigns, are now looking to United Way agencies for support.

The United Way was established to provide a community response to local problems. If not for the United Way, many of the agencies created to provide support would fold – and vulnerable community members would be alone and without the support they need and deserve. In addition to ensuring essential, life-changing services and programs that thrive in our communities, the United Way also advocates for public policy that will ensure lasting solutions.

As Unifor members, we are committed to ensuring the well-being of all. I urge all Unifor members to support their local United Way campaign both by giving generously and volunteering where possible.

In solidarity,

**JERRY DIAS**  
National President

cc: R. Orr, R. Gagné, NEB, Assistants, K, Campbell, National Representatives  
JD/RJO/KC/mwcope343